



SCOUTS'

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2006



COMMANDING OFFICER:
CDR D. C. GRIECO

VS-24 WEBSITE
www.vs24.navy.mil

EXECUTIVE OFFICER:
CDR H. E. MILLS

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
Jeffrey Alcott

OMBUDSMAN
Karen Gromelski
vs24ombudsman@yahoo.com

CO's CORNER

Scout Families,

As I sit down to write this, I am very pleased to report that we are well past half way through the Suez Canal and hence the ship's bow is now solidly pointed in the direction of home. Since our last newsletter, your Scouts have continued to display professionalism, determination and skill of the finest caliber. I could not be prouder of every Sailor in this squadron for their absolutely superb performance over the last five months of cruise. The requested air support of ground forces in Iraq, answered by Scout jets, has been unparalleled by any other S-3B squadron, ever. This would not have been possible without the dedicated Team effort of every Scout of every rating to ensure that our aircraft and personnel were always ready. It has genuinely been my privilege to see that every Scout out here understands just how critical it is for us to make every mission, to be overhead the troops on the ground when needed and to be there with fully functional systems to support them. Through their fantastic performance, the Scouts have made a significant

difference over here, conducted missions never considered possible before and laid the groundwork for future S-3B squadrons to excel. Your Scouts made it happen every time and you should be extremely proud of their accomplishments, I certainly am.

As I have said many times before, none of this would be possible without the wonderful support from all of you back home. It is not lost on me the sacrifices made by each of you and you truly have my thanks and the thanks of our country. Each of you back home are as critical to the success of the Scout Team as any of us out here. Thank You!

I promised each of you back in June that I had no higher goal than to do our job and, once complete, to get everyone home safely. Believe me that I have never lost focus on that. As such, I feel compelled to point out that we still have a bit of work left in front of us and we, collectively, must all maintain our focus all the way to the end. In my experience, this is critical to getting everyone home safely in order that we might enjoy that much deserved liberty time with family and friends we all long for. So I ask each of you to continue the superb support you have shown your Scouts all through cruise and,

while it is hard, be patient as we make our way home. Most importantly to all of us out here, please watch over your families, yourselves and stay safe.

Finally, we are vigorously planning our homecoming at this time and we will get more information to you as it develops. Currently, we are arranging for the airlifts to pull strait up to our squadron hangar (113) for debarkation and will do a joint welcome home reception in our hangar with HS-3 (our Air Wing Helicopter squadron). The USO and MWR are providing some terrific support to include several things for the kids to do while waiting for the airlifts, food, beverages and some welcome home surprises. My plan is to send back, in the form of a final family newsletter, as much information as we have shortly prior to our return home. Any last minute info we will relay through our Ombudsman.

So I will end by once again saying Thank You for all your support and sacrifice during this critical deployment. We look forward to seeing all of you back on the beach. **SCOUTS RULE!**

Skipper

CMC

Hello again. I hope everyone is healthy, happy and getting ready for our return home in the near future. It has been a long cruise for us and I'm sure even longer for some of you. Over the past months there have been some fantastic events at home like new little ones added to your families as well as some not so happy events which have saddened all of us. Through it all you have done a fantastic job and I can't express strongly enough how important you were to our success over here thus far. Your Scouts have played a vital role in history doing their part in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In the past many of us have been on long seemingly uneventful deployments watching the months roll by slowly. In this case we have all been involved in an event that will be remembered through the years of history. I cannot begin to tell you how important you have been to that cause. You kept the home fires burning, bills paid, children safe and lives moving forward. This enabled our Scouts to do one of the most important tasks ever assigned, keeping our jets safely in the air and protecting our fellow servicemen and women on the ground.

Our work here isn't over yet and we still need to keep our minds on the important task of completing our mission and coming home safely. Each one of you is in our thoughts and prayers. All I can say is be safe and it will not be long now! :)

To Vivian and Lauren; I can't wait to come home; I miss you both very much. Who's up for a family boat ride? ☺

J. P. Alcott
CMC VS-24
Scouts Rule!!!

PAO

Greetings to all family and friends back home. The Scouts have completed several sorties and flown many hours since our last newsletter. When we last left you we were in Jebel Ali of the UAE for the holidays. Before that port call we ended our second line period and I am proud to say that we had some of our own on the awards stand. Both LT Pat "Goulet" Hart and LT Mark "Snooze" Gander were awarded with Top Five Nugget Awards, and LCDR Jeff "Sandra" Bernhard received an Air Wing Top Ten award. After pulling out of Jebel we continued to support the effort and fly sortie after sortie. We continued these efforts until January 20, when we pulled into Jebel Ali for the fourth time this cruise. There we received a real treat when a group of individuals called "Cooks of the Valley" donated over 6,000 steaks for the entire ship. Each Sailor was given the chance to enjoy a high quality sirloin steak. After five days of much deserved rest and relaxation, we pulled back into the Gulf for another few weeks. Before you know it we will be on our way home. Thank you for your continuing support, we could not do the jobs we do without our loved ones back home.

LT Snakenberg



ADMIN

Greetings from SCOUT Administrative Department. It has been a while since our last transmission. WE hope that your holidays were enjoyable even though we were not there. Happy New Year to you all ,with a New

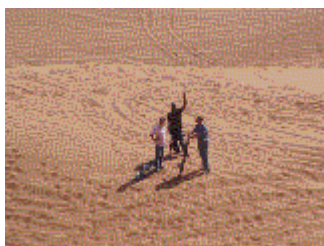
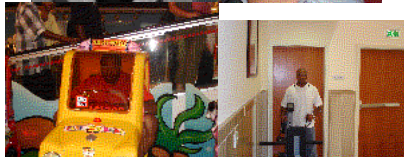
Year it brings us closer to being with the ones we love, YOU!! There have been some changes in the Admin department since our last letter. We would like to welcome YNC(SW) Grange to the fold of Admin Professionals. We also bid farewell to LCDR Eanes who moves to the OPS Department and welcome to LCDR Van Diepen who leaves behind QA for the platinum privilege of Admin. Congratulations go out to PS3 Lookfong on attaining his EAWS, also his selection as USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT Sailor of the Day (Jan 19th). He had the grand opportunity to meet with Captain Haley on the bridge getting clear view of how the "BIG STICK" is navigated. We also would like to take a second to thank all of our family and friends for the numerous care packages and daily e-mails that make this deployment a little more bearable.

Since our last newsletter we have pulled into Jebel Ali / Dubai, United Arab Emirates for the 4th time! MWR once again offered several activities for the Sailors to indulge in. They included trips to the local malls, Gold Souk and local restaurants. They also offered guided tours on four wheelers over the sand dunes, camel rides, skiing (yes skiing, inside the mall ☺) and local entertainment.

SH2 Ferguson and his skilled First LT Warriors consisting of AN Simons, AN Tibbetts, AMAN Hoppert, AEAN Boothe and AZAN Johnson welcome AN McCool to the Cleaning Dream Team. They have been churning and burning in their maintenance of Scout spaces onboard the TR. They are ensuring that material condition of those spaces continues to improve. MA1 Partin has become an integral part of the TR Security Force, and though we rarely see her, she is still the force to be reckoned with. Well, that is about all for this installment, we love and miss each and every one of you and

we will definitely be in touch!
Personnel Specialist One OUT!

PS1 Harris



MAINTENANCE DEPT

MAINTENANCE ADMIN

Greetings and salutations to all of you! It is a 'New Year' and we know you're as excited as we are with the prospective **HOMECOMING.** We had a nice Christmas celebration, despite the fact you were not here. There were gifts for all and lots of goodies to share.

Thanks for all the boxes of 'love' you send us. Our hearts yearned to be with you but we took a few minutes to relax and have a good time.

The missions continue and we keep those airplanes flying. Each and every person makes a contribution to ensure those jets get off the deck on a daily basis. We are proud to say, "We are the team that makes it happen!"

On a more personal note, this month my son, Jerrod will be joining the ranks of the brave ground troops we have stationed in Iraq. I appreciate the dedication of the fine men and women giving of themselves and the devotion to this wonderful country we call **'HOME'.**

AM1 Webb

From the crew:
For My Sweetness, thank you for your faithful love and prayers. I love you. Forever yours, Dee

To My Wonderful and Beautiful Wife, Aisha. I love you! Tell the boys Daddy loves them. Quincy

MAINTENANCE CONTROL

First of all to everyone at home, we are in the final stretch and everyone in maintenance is excited to see their loved ones. We have recently enjoyed some well-deserved liberty in Jebel Ali, UAE, for our 4th and final time. It was a great port with lots of things to enjoy. They have many big, beautiful malls that are very eloquently built. There is an actual ski slope in one of them, of which I had an opportunity to try. Needless to say I fell a few times. There were clothing souks, fabric souk, three gold souks and many restaurants the Scouts had an opportunity to visit and purchase items for our loved ones.

During this last at sea period we continued to maintain our state of readiness and our outstanding sortie completion rates, coming so very close to winning our second Golden Wrench Award. The weather has started to get cold in the Arabian Gulf and we are planning for the Mediterranean to get even colder. The Scouts and Scout maintenance are making preparations for our return to Jacksonville. So hopefully we can visit a few more ports and take lots of beautiful photos for our loved ones to see. Also, we all know that our job isn't done here and many things still have to be accomplished.

Scout maintenance is up for the challenges that are still in store for us. Since our last newsletter was posted many things have happened. SK2 Callender has qualified and earned her Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin. Congratulations to her for her accomplishment.

Also, congratulations are in order for SK1 Bradford, who has just recently re-enlisted for another great tour in the Navy, he will be off to Pensacola for sun and surf, he will be greatly missed. Also, congratulations to AVCM Seymour on his re-enlistment and

to Chief Entzi as well, they too continue their Naval careers. Also, there was fundraiser that took place to earn money for our Christmas party. It was a scullery drive that was a lot of fun for everyone involved. In maintenance we had Senior Smith and Chief Fogle that were lucky enough to be voted in, it was an experience and a site for the ages.

Overall everyone is doing well and maintaining a state of being, we are ready to continue flying airplanes, protecting America and looking forward to the sight of our beautiful loved ones. I am looking forward to holding my baby girl in my arms and seeing how much she has grown. Until the next newsletter we all love and miss you, we'll be home very soon. Shout outs are as follows.

SK2 Buezo

From the Troops:

From SK2(AW) Kurasz:

I love and miss you Pete, Jessika, and Martin. Happy Birthday Jessika!

From SK2(AW) Holmer Buezo:

I Love and miss you Jenny, I miss baby girl, i'll be home soon, cant wait to be with yall.. and Jen try not to drive the Trooper drive my car.

From SK1(AW/SW) Joseph:

Hello to my husband Ron and my mother-in-law Georgette, miss you all very much and hope to see you both soon

From AZC(AW) Rice:

Hello Jan, KJ and Kaelin I love you all and I can't wait to see you all when I get back. We're in the final stretch of this separation. See ya soon.

From WO Owens:

KATHLEEN. I LOVE

YOU..WON'T BE LONG NOW!...

From AZC(AW) Montoya:

Denise, Tony, and Josh,
It is almost over!!! I cannot wait to see you all again. I love and miss you! See ya soon!!!

Hello to Autumn, Diane, Mom and Hope. I love and miss you all so very much, thanks for all your love, support and patients. We'll be seeing each other soon. Love you all, Mike.

To my beautiful wife Diana, my daughter Markeeta, mom, my little brother, grandmother's, uncle and in-laws. I love you all and i'll see you soon!



AT SHOP

Hello from the Scout AT shop, it's coming to a close and we are almost home. With just a few more milestones to go and a port or two we'll be ready to get home and spend some quality time with the families; as for all of us we are all fine. Running the show is Chief Kelly, ready to help out any way he can whether it's miss reading wires or a bad solder job. Chief keeps us running and laughing all the way. On days is AL the fearless LPO, witty as ever and ready for fun at anytime. Eric S. who is a new father, **Congrats** to you and Hanna. Now he will be paid back in spades for what he did to his parents. I feel for his wife, sorry Hanna. April is more than ready to return home and have some home cooking and some cookies like mom makes. Tywan has started to make the planes see red. Always ready to work and laugh, "T-Ball" is on the move. Mom's and Dad's lock your daughters up when Tywan is out. Eric F. is always ready to make the shop a softer place to work and a tad lighter mood. Eric is the boy for the job. On nights you have Carlos who knows what to do and how to do it. Now if we could just understand him it would all work out. Eric M. who is all set to strike on any gripe he gets, as long as his coffee is full and his shirt stays clean Eric can do it all. Kevin is happy as ever with a spring in his step and with the nice cool air. Kevin is more than willing to strike up a conversation with aircrew and have a blast. Nice job Kevin! Robert is loving life, with the wind in his hair, I mean the wind, well you know.

Robert is the loveable teddy bear you just can't kick more than once, we love ya Bobby. Julius is still living life fancy free, and working to be the super trooper we all know he is. Then there is Daniel willing to help anyone who asks and the best video gamer in the shop. No one puts more time on video games than Daniel. Watch out EA, Daniel is kicking butt and taking names. Well we still have a few more folks to talk about, our TAD people. Much love to the ones that make the ship work. Eric S. is getting down and dirty to make our lives more bearable and smiling all the way. Along with him is Steve and just as happy and ready to get back to the shop to help when he can. William is helping the officers with their grueling life with all smiles. Last is Mike, working crowd control with a gleam in his eye and a firm hand. Mike has it all under control. Well the shop is ready to come home and I'm sure you are awaiting our arrival. Until next time have fun, but not too much. We get jealous easily!

ATC Kelly

AE SHOP

Greeting once again from the world famous Scout electricians. As we near the end of this joyous deployment we are looking forward to seeing all of your loving, smiling faces! I can honestly say that our work center has had some great support as far as those care packages are concerned. I do believe that AE3 Gillespie and AE3 Liddle are tied for the most packages received award followed closely by AE2 Marchek. So thank you very much for all your support, we all greatly appreciate it!

As we begin our slow trek West and look back at all our accomplishments it's easy to see that all of our proud members stepped up for the challenge. We are returning a well-oiled machine ready to take on any battle or challenge that comes our way.

We want to send special congratulations out to AE2 Rodriguez and his family for earning Scout of the year. We all feel that it was an honor to work alongside of him and to be apart of his success. AE3 Gillespie completed his Collateral Duty Inspector qualification. AE2 Marchek completed his Final Checker qualification and earned himself a spot on the Scouts Troubleshooters Branch.

We are weeks instead of months away from returning home now ☺. The light at the end of that tunnel is getting brighter by the moment and you can see it on everyone's face. We will do our best to remain safe the remainder of the time we have out here. Keep the e-mails and love flowing! Scout AEs out.

AE1 Foley

QA

Five down and one more to go! Hey out there to all of our Scout families. This is your friendly neighborhood QA. With more behind us than in front, we here in QA can't help but reminisce on the great time had by all during this last port visit to...you guessed it Jebel Ali, UAE. Though this was our fourth and last visit to the UAE (United Arab Emirates), we will always remember the great times and fond memories of this place. From the camel back rides to the sand dunes; from the Sand Box to the gold souk; the six city mall to the mall with a ski slope inside. What fond memories and stories we all will bring home to you. As for the troops in QA, well the gangs all here. We are all hanging in there anxiously awaiting our arrival back to Jacksonville. So happy to report that thus far, we have managed to keep everyone in one piece and out of harm's way. So until next time, take care and we love and miss you all.

AZ2Duffy



ORDNANCE

Just a quick hello to all the people I know. IYAOYAS® Experts in landscaping and population control.

AO3 (AW) Williams, DeAnthony

January is halfway over, another month down, another month closer to family and friends, and the biggest party of the year. I just want to tell everyone I love them and I miss them, and despite the therapy after all this I will be good as new. I want to say Happy Birthday to my mom, and wish my sisters a good school year, I am sorry I missed it, but I will make up for it soon enough. To those who know... it's a girl!!!!

AO3 Birchfield

Hey everyone, Kev here with a little mid-January greeting, yeah that's right I said mid-January. I can't believe that month five is almost in the books. I just want everyone to know that I am doing just fine. I've just seen probably the craziest Steeler game I have ever witnessed (Colts). Hopefully when everyone gets this they would have won or are going to the Super Bowl. Jodie, I want to tell you that you are always on my mind and I am so proud of you for how strong you have been this whole time. I love you with all my heart and when you read this we should only have a month left. I can't wait to see you again and we will have to get that grill and cook some food and relax on the porch babe. I love you and I will

be there soon. To my family, I hope that someday soon we will be together again. I am looking forward to coming home again whenever that may be, hopefully sooner than later. I want you all to know that I love everyone of you very much and am very thankful that you are all in my life.

I pray that everyone is safe and enjoying land. To all my friends back there in the greatest city in the world. Don't forget about me I'll be back in no time. Fishing, Tionesta, Steeler games, we're all going to have to get together again. I miss you all a whole lot and cannot wait to hang out again. Don't forget about me guys, I know it has been four years but I have definitely not forgot about you. That's it for now I guess, GO STEELERS! Everyone stay safe and I hope your new year is going well.

AO2 Kerston

I want to start this with saying thank you to all the families of my guys and girls out here. I know all you miss your husbands, brothers, wives and sisters ect. I want you all to know they have performed like champs in the time of need. I am truly lucky to have such a great group of guys working beside me. So I want you all to give them the congratulations that they all deserve when they return to you.

Mandy thank you for being here for me from thousands of miles away. We hit one year of many to come of marriage on the 13th of February. I know it has been tough for you with me being gone but you have made it seem easy. I promise I will make it all up to you and Kaden as soon as I come home. Like I have told you a thousand times you are my rock my keystone and my heart. I love you too the moon and back.

To all my Tennessee family and friends I will be home soon, so you all can meet my new little man Kaden. I love you and miss you all. Thank you for all your support to myself and my family while I have been away. Happy

Birthday to my wonderful, and never aging, Grandmother. You have and continue to inspire me to stay young at heart. Thank you. I love you all and will see you soon.
IYAOYAS!!!!

AO2 (AW) Price

I'd like to say, enjoy the New Year to all the families and friends. God bless, be easy.
Go Panthers!!

AOAN Marks



CORROSION

It's that time again, another update and section of cruise over. We are down to the last quarter of deployment, yippee, and if you have been tracking over the past news letters 12C now has a few more additions to the Corrosion Control team and one member about to transfer to shore duty. We welcome AO1 Frakes and welcome back AN Penaarias after four months of being part of the process of moral for the command as a postal clerk. His sorting, shipping and delivery of good news and packages to and from the ship is highly appreciated. The post office really

didn't want to let him go because he has been a hard charger while working with them. However, being an Airframer in training we needed to abuse him in every way to prepare him for his upcoming test for AM3, wish him luck. Best wishes to AM3 Conyers in his upcoming transfer to VP-30. We enjoyed the last time in the Sand Box and we will miss it, however time to move on to different port calls. The new year is already looking brighter than the last and soon we will all be together again to enjoy some bonding with our loved ones. Until next time, back to work lots to get done with little time left. Thank you for being supportive and always on our side.

AM1 Tarvit

AIRFRAMES

Greetings from the Airframes shop! We are starting our new year out trying to keep our spirits up and seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. We've had many great accomplishments since our last newsletter. AM3 (AW) Carranza is now our newest Petty Officer, and was chosen for Junior Sailor of the Quarter (3rd) for 2005. AM1 (AW) Fontaine was chosen as Senior Sailor of the Quarter (3rd) for 2005. AM3 (AW) Diage was chosen for December Scout of the Month. Congratulations to those guys!!! I would also like to congratulate all our newest Enlisted Air Warfare Specialists in our shop, AM2 (AW) Peralta, AM3 (AW) Lavallee, AM3 (AW) Diage and AM3 (AW) White.

We pulled into Jebel Ali for the fourth time at the end of January. Seemed to be a well-deserved break for everyone. One last chance to enjoy the warm weather before going back through the Mediterranean in the next few weeks. We all are excited to see our family and friends in the near future, not much longer!!!

AM1 Lorts

Messages from the guys....

Almost home!!! To Nice, Happy B-Day. Los extraño con toda mi Alma. Carlos

Holli, Can't wait to you soon sweetie!! I Love you so much!
Brian



MECH SHOP

Greetings once again to our friends and family! It's amazing to us all, but sure enough, we find ourselves at the end of January, leaving only one month left on cruise! We are all very happy that time flies, and very soon we will be finding ourselves home with those that we have missed. The last two months have been very eventful for the Scout's Power Plants shop, and we have made the most of our time while here in the Gulf. Here in the shop we are either feast or famine, and we have been hungry more than full lately. This is mostly due to the fabulous maintenance personnel, and in part to the

aircraft cooperating with us daily. With two recent port visits to the shopping wonderland known as Dubai, we had the chance to take some time off to celebrate Christmas with our shipmates. Since we were unable to spend it with our loved ones we made the most of this joyous day. The ship did its part in serving up a grand feast, and most of the guys got all of their Christmas shopping done, so expect expensive gifts upon our return! After a five-day visit, we once again set out to continue our Persian Excursion, providing much needed support for our troops on the ground. After extensive flying and lots of maintenance, we pulled into Dubai for the fourth and final time to catch up on shopping for items that we had been putting off for months. This visit held a special treat when an organization known as the Cooks of the Valley, based in California, flew over 5000 freshly cut steaks from the states and held an impressive cookout for the members of the crew. It was a refreshing taste of home in a far away land. After another 5 days in port, with our wallets once again emptied, we set out for our final leg of the Gulf tour.

We have made the most of our time and focused on personal development. Congratulations go out to ADAN Harper on the completion of his EAWS Qualification. Congratulations also go to AD2 Labruzzo for joining the ranks of the qualified APU/Engine Turn Operators. Several of the shop guys are aggressively pursuing their EAWS and ESWS, so that they can return home with some shiny new pins on their chests, and hopefully a new stripe on their arm in March. We also wish good luck to AD1 King and AD1 Snellman for their participation in the January Chief's Exam.

As we begin our sixth and final month of cruise, we would like to send our love and prayers to those we love that are patiently waiting for our return. We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season, and that you got

everything you wished for (not counting us!!). We thank you again for the support from home, and have all enjoyed the cookies and candy that have been in abundance in our shop. We will see you all REAL soon!

AD1 King

Notes from the Guys:

ADAN Wade: Holly, Keep your head up baby, I pray for the day we'll meet again.
Love You. Thanks, Pimp-n!

AD2 Labruzzo: Jenna- I love you and the end is just around the corner. I love you!

AD1 Snellman: To my loving wife and son. "I am glad that you made it home safely. I hope that you were able to enjoy the Holidays with your family. The difficult ordeal that I was in, is about over. I am looking forward to coming home. I give you all my love and want to say I miss you.

AD1 King: Libby, Zachary and Emily, Our time here is almost over, and I'm looking forward to getting home to you. I love you and miss you very much!!

BUDDY STORES

Hello family and friends back home. Much has happened out here since our last newsletter. The holidays here were not the same without you all, but we made the best of what we had to work with and made it through. We have had some busy days out here flying non-stop for weeks at a time with a small break here and there. Not too long ago we had the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff on board to let us know we are doing a awesome job as well as making a difference in Iraq. Some people with the USO came to provide a little relief and bring a smile to our faces. Not only did we have the

Chairman out here, the CNO (Chief of Naval Operations) also came to remind us of the good job we are doing and to discuss the future plans of the Navy. It is good to hear the progress of our work from the higher ups. At this point of cruise it is all down hill and we are anxiously awaiting our return to home. With that being said we have to stay on top of our game and ensure we are doing everything to our ability to stay safe as well as keeping our equipment working in top-notch condition. To this date we have been responsible for the passing of more or less (9.6 Million lbs) of fuel to our fellow Air Wing members. So far all is going well and the work out here has been going smoothly. During early January the squadron did a fundraiser to raise money for the MWR for events back at the beach and we did better then we expected. The committee raised \$3,000 and some change and with that we were able to get 1 LT, 1 Senior Chief, 2 Chiefs and 1 PO2 to work in the scullery. Needless to say it will be fun to watch everyone do some fun quality time in the dish room. At this time we would like to pass on good wishes to the McDaniel's to the birth of their new daughter Abria Lynn McDaniel who was born on January 4th 2006 (The day which Texas also luckily won the Rose Bowl). As you all know we recently wrapped up, or hopefully wrapped up our last port visit in the Arabian Gulf before we start to slowly start making our way to the Mediterranean. We would like to send our thanks to everyone back home who has made our deployment easier with all the care packages as well as the e-mails and letters you have been sending. Who knows how grouchy we would be without the support from you all. So again thank you for all you have done for us. I would like to remind everyone back home to keep us in your prayers as we wrap up this last leg of deployment for our safe return to home. Until next time everyone.

World's Finest Buddy Stores

AD3 Root

Hello to family and friends back home. Things are going great here. We are all looking forward to getting home soon. We are getting a lot of great gift ideas out here. Not to spoil the surprises but we are all looking forward to opening our Christmas gifts when we get home. The newborns we have yet to see and the ones we left behind to grow up without us, but not for long. Sending home best wishes and love to my wife and little one. Best of times,

AD2 Colson USN

My Family



Here we have a group of Scouts out in the pier enjoying some time off. From left to right we have AME1 (AW) Galloway, LT Wolf, CMC Alcott, LT Snakenberg, AD1 (AW) Smith, AM1 (AW) Panti, AD3 Root, and AD1 (AW) King.

PR SHOP

So what do you write about after five months on cruise? Yes that's right, five out of the six are done now! That means we get to turn left and head home real soon. With that in mind, we thought we would offer some ideas of what to expect upon our return:

Your loved one has been living in an extremely crude environment for quite some time and will require time to adjust to their former lifestyle.

The key to help him through this difficult time is PATIENCE.

Remain calm if he mixes his mashed potatoes with his chocolate pudding; stirs his coffee with his finger or ball point pen, or eats as though someone was going to steal his food.

Bear with him if he walks out to the back patio, looks around to make sure no one is watching, and then throws the trash over the railing into the backyard.

Do not be alarmed when he walks through a door and ducks his head and raises his feet, because it's not a neurotic condition, it's just the way he has been walking for the past six months. His digestive tract will also require some adjustment, so for the first week, all vegetables must be boiled until they are colorless and falling apart (after they have been sitting out in the hot sun for at least a week prior to his getting home).

Eggs must be tinged with a shade of green and be runny, bacon nearly raw and all other meats must be extremely well done. Have chicken for the first 5 or 6 weeks, calling it roast chicken the first night, savory chicken the second, glazed Cornish hen the third, baked free range chicken the fourth, etc. If milk is served, it should be at room temperature and slightly diluted with water. In the evenings, turn off all air-conditioning and fans. Let him sleep on the floor in the laundry room with the dirty clothes because he's so used to the smell. For the first few nights wake him every three or four hours, just say "Man Overboard" and watch him jump up and run around in his underwear. Under no circumstances should he be allowed to get a complete night sleep during the critical adjustment time. His daily routine may seem strange to you, especially when he wakes everyone up at six in the morning screaming, Reveille-Reveille, all hands heave out and trice up! Just smile and nod and make sure everyone is up and on the

back porch at seven-thirty for muster, instruction and inspection. His language may seem foreign and you may not understand all the terms he uses, it isn't necessary that you do just smile and be pleasant. The bathroom is quite possibly the most dangerous place in the house for your returning Sailor. Before he arrives, strip the bathroom of all accessories such as towels, bathmats, and any and all toiletry items. Crack the mirror and run water on the floor. Toilet paper is optional, but if it is furnished, it must be placed in a puddle on the floor. Turn off the hot water at the source for the first few days. Wait until he is in the shower, soaped up and then turn the water off altogether for about fifteen minutes. All of these precautions are imperative, because if he walks into a bathroom that is complete with the above-mentioned items, he may shrink into a corner and curl into a fetal position, wide-eyed and shaking. If this happens, there are only two proven and accepted methods of snapping him out of it; yell "Mail-Call" or "Liberty-Call". In either case, stay clear of the doorway.

In closing, always remember that beneath that worn out shell there beats a heart of gold, that being the only thing the Navy couldn't confiscate or re-schedule at a later date. With kindness, patience and the occasional swift kick, your loved one will soon return to his former self. See ya'll real soon!!!

Love, The Scout Riggers!

PR1 Turner

AME SHOP

The AMEs want to start off by wishing everyone back home a very Happy New Year and say **"welcome aboard"** to Steve and Tracy's new son, Landen Ellis...all 6 purple pounds of him. Land-on was born in December at Jacksonville Naval Veterinary clinic. Older brother Dalen was

heard to say, "He can't have my room, he can sleep with Cow!"

Becalmed by the post-holiday lull in Christmas candy shipments AME2 Tackett has finally settled down long enough to engage in whole conversations and be understood by the rest of the shop. That said...please send more candy.

Our newest AME3, Charlotte Puckett proves that buying stock in Red Bull could make you rich and our shop has never been cleaner. The recent zone inspection garnered zero hits and much of the credit is owed to AME3 and her Taurine-loaded sponsor.

We're all stunned by the realization that AME1 Galloway isn't going bald after all; the fact is his head's getting bigger! With the NFL football season coming to a close, AME1 is often seen (and heard) lamenting the losses of 6 or 7 of his most-favorite teams but at least 3 of his teams did happen to make it into the post season play-offs so chances are good that the die-hard fan will be celebrating with somebody this coming Super Bowl Sunday. The good news is HE IS NOT YELLING!

Our troubleshooting pair; AME2 John V. Byrd keeps 'em flying by night and AME3 Williams thrusts her thumb in the air by day. Once she learns to tie her boots we'll ALL be happy.

AME2 Sanchez continues studying toward higher education, his degree and a working hypothesis on this whole elusive "time" thing.

AMEAN Mayberry, our latest free-agency acquisition has returned and we're glad to have Ty-Ty back from TAD at the laundry and post office.

That's it in a nutshell, from the intrepid AME shop. From all of us to all of you, we're looking forward to spending the rest of the year with our loved back home.

AME2 (AW) Walls

LINE SHACK

Once again, everyone from the VS-24 Line Division would like to say hello to all our family and friends back home. Under the outstanding leadership of ADC Dominic Gromelski, the Line has continued to excel throughout the division. ADAN Ryan Dees was awarded for his outstanding contributions as the Senior Plane Captain by being named the Scout Plane Captain of the Year for 2005. Congratulations Airmen Dees on an excellent year and a job well done! One of the Plane Captains that ADAN Dees trained, AN Larry Dean, was awarded for his outstanding effort as December's Plane Captain of the Month. As a whole, the Line has been kicking butt and taking names and this is most evident in all of the new qualifications. ADAN Rabindra Persaud, ADAN Ryan Dees, AEAN Phillip Myers and AN Zachary Thrasher have all completed a challenging and intense APU training syllabus to receive their APU turn qualifications. AEAN Phillip Myers and AMAN Ivan Spicer are now designated Plane Captains, having gone through a complicated and demanding PQS Syllabus. We welcomed two additions to the division this past month, AN Nicholas North and AN Ethan Starnes. Both young men have hit the deck running and are already becoming valuable members of the Line Division team. Port visit number four to Jebel Ali was a welcomed break for all. Each time we have pulled in to Jebel Ali there always seems to be something different to do. For this port visit, the Global Village was the place to be for many from the Line. The Global Village is much like Disney's Epcott Center with a Middle Eastern flare. You can experience the customs of all the Arabic countries, purchase various items and eat traditional food specific to these countries all while enjoying an exciting Carnival Park. The Line Division

continues to work extremely hard everyday to get aircraft airborne in the support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. We still have some more hard work to do but we look forward to the day when we can be back in Jacksonville with all of our loved ones.

LT Hart



Sailor of the Day

PS3 Kongwing Lookfong

By PH3(AW) Randall Damm



Photo by PH3(AW) Randall Damm
Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Kongwing Lookfong from Richmond Hill, N.Y., is today's Sailor of the Day.

Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Kongwing Lookfong from the "Scouts" of Sea Control Squadron (VS) 24 is today's Sailor of the Day.

Lookfong is a five-year Navy veteran and native of Richmond Hill, N.Y. He joined the Navy as an aviation machinist's mate for the educational and travel benefits.

"I needed a change of pace, so about a year ago I cross rated from AD to PS," Lookfong said.

Lookfong is responsible for handling the squadron's administrative needs. He is the liaison between the squadron and the ship's Administration Department.

"Petty Officer Lookfong is a hard charger who completes tasks without being told," said Chief Yeoman Tonya Grange.

"I spend most of my off time studying," Lookfong said. "I have the second class petty officer exam coming up, so I have to get ready for that."

Lookfong has recently completed his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist qualification and is waiting to be pinned. He plans on becoming dual-warfare qualified, and is submitting a package for the Seaman to Admiral program, and plans on attending college after cruise.

VS-24 'Scouts' raise money with scullery drive

By LI2 Karen M. James

Sailors assigned to Temporary Additional Duty in the scullery section of the aft mess decks received a much welcomed break at dinner yesterday. Seven Sailors, ranging from a 2nd class petty officer to the Commanding Officer, from the "Scouts" of Sea Control Squadron (VS) 24 took over the scullery duties from 3:30 – 7 p.m.

The scullery drive fundraiser was held from January 1 through the 15, and the "Scouts" Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) committee visited each of their spaces collecting votes at a cost of two for a dollar. Each

morning the updated standings were posted in Ready Room Four and outside of Maintenance Control. At the end of the drive the top five nominees were given until noon on January 15 to buy their way out of the scullery, for double the price.

The top five finalists were Lt. Josh Larson, Senior Chief Aviation Electricians Mate (AW/SW) Michael Smith, Chief Aviation Electricians Mate (AW) Bill Fogle, Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (AW) Mark Runyan, and Aviation Maintenance Administration 2nd Class (AW) Crystal Duffy. The Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Daniel Grieco and the Executive Officer, Cmdr. Ted Mills voluntarily participated.

"The scullery drive worked out great," said Mills. "Everyone is having a good time, and the crew is enjoying us being in here." "This is actually a lot of fun," said Grieco. "Working in the scullery is definitely different than flying aircraft, but a nice change. Besides, it is for a good cause."

VS-24's MWR raised \$3,529.50 during the scullery drive to apply towards their homecoming party.

"This will be our last after deployment Homecoming," said Aviation Electricians Mate 1st Class (AW) Gerald Williams, MWR Representative. "We decommission shortly after the USS Theodore Roosevelt enters the shipyard, so MWR is working hard to raise money and make this homecoming party one to remember."



Photo by LI2 Karen M. James

VS-24 'Scouts' Executive Officer, Cmdr. Ted Mills (front), Commanding Officer, Daniel Grieco (center) and Lt. Joshua Larson participate in the squadron scullery drive held Monday. The squadron raised \$3,529.50 for their MWR fund.